361/1

Sidney Hartland
anthropologist

Highgarth,
Gloucester.

23 Sept. 1907.

Dear Sir

I am in receipt your letter of the 20th inst. I am aware of the custom to which you refer, but I have never inquired minutely into it. Without doing so and comparing the practices among the Jewish communities in different countries I should not like to offer a definite opinion upon it. It may perhaps connote a symbolic expression of a conditional curse if the bridegroom (who I believe generally performs the ceremony) break the contract entered into.

symbolism of this knife is frequently employed in concluding solemn engagements. Compare the dancer broken by a Chinese witness on taking an oath to speak the truth.

Yours faithfully

Stanley Stockwell

DSI